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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Potsdam

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 21 May 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 26 April 1952, the southern section of the Delius Kaserne on Nedlitzerstrasse Potsdam (U 53/Z 63), quartered 600 to 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epauletts with artillery and motor transport insignia. On 25 April, about 25 trucks and 1 ambulance were parked in front of the garages, and at least, 3 x 122-mm field guns in a gun shed. Eight trailers, 3 tank trucks and 2 tank truck trailers were in the garages west of Nedlitzerstrasse. About 45 men engaged in fatigue duty or in maintenance duty on vehicles on 26 April. Six trucks, 1 workshop truck, 2 caterpillar tractors and 1 sedan were in front of the garages. There was no vehicular traffic.

2. On 26 April, the northern section of the Delius Kaserne was vacant, except for a rear unit of 50 to 60 men. Some soldiers policed the empty quarters and garages. (1)

3. On 26 April, the Hohenlohe Kaserne on Nedlitzerstrasse quartered about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epauletts with artillery insignia. There was little activity in the billets. Vehicles identified driving to, and from, [redacted] 25X1

4. On 26 April, the Ludendorff Kaserne on Nedlitzerstrasse quartered 350 to 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epauletts, including some with artillery insignia. The northern quarters appeared to be fully occupied, the central quarters appeared to be vacant. [redacted] About 20 soldiers had fatigue duty and about 30 other men serviced motor vehicles. Six 37-mm AA guns, 1 AA machine gun and two trucks stood in front of the garages. (2)

5. On 26 April, the Unteroffizier Schule on Jaeger Allee quartered only a rear detail and sentries with black-bordered crimson epauletts. The signal unit permanently stationed there had moved out on 24 April. The 10 antennas previously seen on the installation were removed. (3)

6. On 25 April, the Kavallerie Schule in Kramnitz quartered not more than 500 soldiers. There was almost no activity in the entire billeting area. No heavy weapons, tanks and vehicles were noticed on the parking lots. Deep imprints of tank tracks led from the installation to the loading ramp of the Batskorn railroad station. (4)

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CLASSIFICATION

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7. [] the Landgericht (provincial court) on Hugel-Allee was to be returned to German authorities in mid-May 1952. []

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8. In early April, the barracks installation in Solm quartered about 1,000 troops of an artillery unit equipped with about 32 x 152-mm guns and about 200 air force soldiers. The artillery unit was commanded by one Colonel Komrai (Pau) who was referred to by his soldiers as the "Big Boss". Colonel Ovshnikov (in) was identified as supply officer and Senior Lieutenant Chershenkov (Chu) as his assistant. Lieutenant Colonel Trumen (Shu) was motor transport officer. The troops, who were quartered in a three-story building in the northeastern section of the installation, were referred to by their comrades as first division, those in another three-story building in the northeastern section as second division, and those in a three-story building a little farther to the west as third division, of the artillery unit. [] the artillery unit was scheduled to move to the Altengraben (B 53/4 00) troop training grounds in mid-April 1952. (6)

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9. During the period from 15 to 21 April, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne on Pappel Allee housed a headquarters and administrative offices. []

10. Between 15 and 21 April, the Kriegsschule at the intersection of Pappel Allee and Kirschaallee was occupied by Soviet troops. There was intensive traffic of officers and men entering and leaving the installation. No training activities were noticed. []

11. Between 15 and 21 April, there were four 35-mm AA guns and an AA machine gun emplaced in the Bergstuecken Colony south of Labolzberg. They were operated by about 2 officers and 14 men. The soldiers were engaged in gun drill, physical exercise and games of soccer, sometimes wearing gas masks. About 14 soldiers received basic infantry training. During the same period, at the AA emplacement in the Steinstuecken Colony there were six 37-mm AA guns operated by about 2 officers and 30 men, the soldiers engaged in gun drill and infantry training with carbines. During the same period, at the AA emplacement at the athletic field on Franz Nehringerstrasse there were five 37-mm AA guns with a crew of 2 officers and 30 soldiers who were engaged in gun drill, physical exercise and cleaning of weapons. (7)

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Comments.

- (1) The present report tends to indicate that only the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig and the unidentified gun artillery brigade from the barracks installation in Geln had moved to Altengrabow in about 12 shipments by 24 April 1952. The 143rd Gun Arty Brig (US) in the southern section of the installation presumably is at its quarters.

- (2) In this connection, it is said that, in 1951, one of the brigades, namely the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig, moved to Altengrabow as late as August 1951. The information that the installation is only partially occupied is due to the fact that, since mid-March 1952, elements of the 2d Gds AAA Div have moved to the Mustraw AA range.

- (3) [redacted] presumably units of the 60th Sig Regt (US) from the Unteroffizier Schule were loaded on 24 April 1952.

- (4) The occupation of the Kavallerie Schule, Kraupnitz, corresponds with the available information. During the period from 15 to 23 April 1952, about 24 trains with troops of the 10th Gds Tank Div were dispatched to Letzling Heath from the Satz Korn and Dallgow-Doberitz railroad stations.

- (6) Colonel Ovshinkov (fnu) possibly is identical with Lieutenant Colonel Ovshinkov (fnu) who, in 1947, was reported as lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of a unit [redacted] in the barracks installation in Geln. He probably is supply officer of the unidentified gun artillery brigade of the 34th Arty Div (US) which is believed stationed there. This brigade probably has guns, however, 15 of the guns may be 122-mm. If the units which the soldiers referred to as divisions are battalions, the brigade would have three battalions. The first two battalions are possibly equipped with 152-mm and 122-mm guns and the third possibly is composed of headquarters units and an AA artillery battery or batteries. The 32 guns reported from Geln correspond with information from the northern section of the Delius Kaserne and tend to indicate that three brigades, namely two in the Delius Kaserne and one in the barracks installation in Geln, belong to the 34th Arty Div (US). An artillery unit of similar composition as that stationed in the barracks installation in Geln is located in the southern

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section of the Delius Kaserne; but no information is available on the caliber of the guns. The number of personnel excluding that of the Headquarters of the 31st Arty Div (US) also corresponds with that of a brigade.

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